shall not be predetermined, but shall be left to be determined by competitive market conditions.

Tapping of hydro power potential

85. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether hydro power potential in some States has not been tapped at the desirable pace;

(b) if so, the detaiis alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some States are reluctant to follow the norms laid down by the Union Government in signing the MoUs for setting up of Hydro Power Projects in their States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. .

(b) out of about 1,50,000 MW of exploitable hydro electric potential identified, 20.3% has been developed and 9.4% is under deverepment The hydro power potential of Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern States *viz.* Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim *and* Arunachal Pradesh could not be harnessed at desired pace. The development of hydro potential has been slow due to the following reasons:

(i) Difficult/in-accessible sites.

(ii) Environment, Forest and Wildlife Clearance related problems

(iii) Land acquisition and Rehabilitation problems.

(iv) Law and order problems.

(v) Paucity of Funds & longer gestation period.,

(vi) Adverse geological conditions.

(vii) Inter-state aspects.

(vii) Higher initial construction cost.

(ix) Apportionment of project cost among various beneficiaries.

(x) Excessive burden on account of Net Present Vaiue (NPV) with respect to forest lands.

(c) to (e) No Sir. According to the guidelines of the Government of India projects upto 100 MW can be developed through the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and by an large the States have been resorting to this route for projects upto 100 MW.

Policy for allocation of captive coal blocks

86. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new policy for allocating. captive coal blocks for power projects and States utilities will be required to come forward with competitive bidding initiatives for large quantities of *power,* either on their own or in groups, as is the case with the Ultra-Mega Power Projects:

(b) if so, whether Government are working towards a plan where each State may have two to four Ultra-Mega Power Plants;

(c) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) the amount to be spent on each mega power project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHR! SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Ministry of Power has formulated guidelines for facilitating allocation of coal linkage and captive coal blocks to the power projects.

(b) to (d) Presently, there is no policy to set up 2-4 Ultra-Mega Power Plants, (UMPP) (4000 MW capacity) in each State. The average investment required for setting up an UMPP is estimated to be around Rs. 16,000 to Rs 18,000 crores. Each ultra mega project is expected to supply power to many States

Rural electrification targets

87. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: